

Christmas Lights Ordeal Sparks Anger

20 Apr 1988

Either through ignorance, negligence or a lack of communication, a significant portion of the Tabernacle's Christmas lights were cut down and destroyed last week by construction crews. The action has angered many people who put their heart and soul last year into making Heber Valley a Christmas lighting wonderland.

Heber Light and Power and Heber City say that the lights that were cut and destroyed were purchased by the city five years ago, and too old to be functional in the future. And the new lights purchased by the Heber Valley Chamber of Commerce through \$1,200 in donations from individuals and civic groups are still in the trees, therefore undamaged.

However, when we investigated the cut lights, we could see that they were the same the chamber purchased last December. The lights were Silvestri lights, purchased through Salt Lake Wholesale in Salt Lake City, and they would have been good for a least four more years.

It's difficult to know where to point the finger of blame. On the one hand the chamber could have communicated with the city its hope to have the lights taken down before construction. The city, on the other hand should have recognized the importance of Christmas lighting to Heber Valley residents and the cost involved with their tearing down. Or the construction company should have notified the city about the obstacle the lights presented before tearing them down. Either way, all the people and organizations that donated to the cause of making Heber Valley a winter wonderland, may feel a little burned by the whole ordeal.

In the future, in order to avoid a reoccurrence of something similar, let all parties involved share a little more concern and empathy for the projects and programs of each other.